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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2004

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES

BRIEFING

EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Verheugen: No EU membership for Turkey before 2015 - Vatan
FM Gul: We won't accept special EU conditions for Turkey -
Vatan

New EU expansion chief positive toward Turkey - Milliyet
Incoming EU Commission wants referendum on Turkey - Sabah
PM Erdogan: Referendum on Turkey is double-standard - Aksam
'TRNC' to be represented at EU - Turkiye
Another Turk killed in Iraq for 'spying' - Milliyet
Life paralyzed in Gaza - Aksam

OPINION MAKERS

Europe's historic debate on Turkey - Radikal
Verheugen's successor positive on Turkey - Radikal
Brussels presses Ankara to recognize Greek Cypriots -
Cumhuriyet
HRW: For Turkey, human rights hold key to EU gate - Yeni
Safak
Fallujah under fire, death toll 39 in Iraq - Zaman
US kills children again in Fallujah raid - Yeni Safak
Sharon's operation to destroy Gaza - Zaman
Israeli operation isolates Palestine - Cumhuriyet
Israel's bloody Gaza raid may go on for weeks - Yeni Safak
Kerry catches up with Bush - Cumhuriyet

BRIEFING

EU-Turkey: The European Commission will make a recommendation on Wednesday on whether Ankara has met the political and economic conditions to begin accession talks. EU leaders must then decide in December whether or not to set a date for the talks. On Monday, EU Expansion Commissioner-designate Olli Rehn said that if the recommendation was positive, the bloc has a duty to 'stick to its word.' Rehn emphasized that a green light for the opening of entry talks would split European public opinion, but said the bloc should continue to encourage reform in Turkey. Rehn also stressed that if accession talks began, 'the EU definitely will need a strong monitoring mechanism in order to monitor Turkey's commitments concerning human rights and the rights of minorities.' "Cumhuriyet" expects the Commission to press Ankara for the expansion of rights to the 'Kurds and other minority groups in Turkey.' Rehn said Turkey was taking the problem of torture seriously and noted that 'a lot of progress has been made in the last few years.' EU officials also said that Turkey has met EU conditions by supporting a UN peace plan for the reunification of Cyprus. EU sources said the Commission would propose no date for opening entry talks, and no target date for Turkish accession. But the report assumes that 2015 would be the earliest realistic date. Meanwhile, Turkish FM Abdullah Gul told reporters that there can be no question of special conditions for Turkey's membership. On Wednesday, PM Erdogan will go to Strasbourg to address the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

Allegations of Pentagon 'bribe money' for Halki Seminary: A document sent to US Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz shows that the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomeos requested \$12 million from the Pentagon for 'bribes' to Turkish officials in an effort to see the reopening of Halki Seminary in Istanbul, "Vatan" reports. The Pentagon sent the money to a special account at Barclay's Bank on October 30, 2001. However, the money 'disappeared' after being transferred to the accounts of two Turks and a Muslim lawyer from Bahrain, Awadh Obaid al-Yamani, who is in charge of the Patriarch's private accounts and of donations made to the Patriarchate. Businessman Vasilaki Floridi told a court in Istanbul that he had given \$3.3 million to Bartholomeos to reopen the Seminary, but claimed that the Patriarch had used the money for personal purposes. "Vatan" acknowledges that the authenticity of the document sent to Wolfowitz has not

been verified.

Hastings meets PM Erdogan: PM Erdogan exchanged views on Monday with OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Chairman and US House of Representatives member Alcee Hastings on European security and developments in Iraq, "Yeni Safak" reports. Erdogan told Hastings that things are not going well in Iraq, and urged the OSCE to consult with NATO, the UN, and the EU to increase efforts for peace in the region.

Hastings said that US-Turkey relations are not confined only to the struggle against terrorism. Hastings noted that the OSCE has supported Turkey's EU membership for the last 10 years. Hastings later paid a courtesy visit to the deputy speaker of parliament, and recalled that a group of Turkish lawmakers would observe the US Presidential elections in November.

Kizilay Employee Buried in Ankara: Mustafa Pekcan, the Turkish Red Crescent employee who was critically wounded and later died from gunshot wounds suffered in an attack against a Turkish convoy near Mosul, was buried in a ceremony in Ankara yesterday. FM Gul, Justice Minister Cicek, and Health Minister Akdag were all in attendance. Murat Yetkin wrote in "Radikal" that, based on his conversation with an Iraqi Turkmen doctor who was on the scene in Mosul, American military doctors made extraordinary efforts to save Pekcan's life. The delay in transporting Pekcan to Ankara, the doctor said, was due to the precariousness of his medical condition. Meanwhile, CHP lawmaker Zulfi Livanelli said that if the US military had allowed the patient to be evacuated sooner from Iraq, he may well be alive today.

Turkish Hostage Killed in Iraq: All papers report that a Turkish hostage, Yilmaz Dabca, was shot and killed by his captors in Iraq. An Italian citizen of Iraqi Turkmen origin, Ayad Enver Vali, was also killed. Before the execution, then men's captors claimed that the two hostages had 'confessed' to spying for Israel and Turkey.

Body of Turkish Driver Found Near Tikrit: The body of another Turkish driver was found near the city of Tikrit, some 130 kilometers north of Baghdad. The identity of the victim, who had been shot and killed, could not be immediately determined.

Nicosia demands recognition by Turkey: "Cumhuriyet" claims that Brussels is forcing Ankara to include southern Cyprus in the 1963 Ankara Agreement between Turkey and the EU. The Greek Cypriots are urging EU to insist on full political recognition by Turkey. The EU views the recent inclusion by Ankara of Nicosia in Turkey's 1996 Customs Union (CU) agreement with the EU as insufficient, and will present Ankara with an additional protocol to the Ankara Agreement which would introduce official recognition by Ankara of the Cyprus Republic. Meanwhile, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) announced Monday that Turkish Cypriots would be allowed to attend the PACE meetings independent from the Greek Cypriots. Papers view the decision as a goodwill gesture toward PM Erdogan before he addresses the Parliamentary Assembly on Wednesday. The EU decision does not imply official recognition of the 'TRNC.'

Israel will not join air exercises in Turkey: Israel did not join air exercises held every year in Turkey's Karapinar-Konya province due to the strain in bilateral relations with Turkey, "Radikal" reports. The 'Anatolian Eagle' military exercises were held in Konya in Turkey's Central Anatolian province with the participation of the US, Italy, the Netherlands, and Germany. Diplomatic sources say the Palestine dispute and strained relations between Ankara and Tel Aviv are the main reason for Israel's withdrawal from the war games.

EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq-Election 2004; EU-Turkey

"Any chance for democracy in the United States?" Can Dundar commented in the mass appeal "Milliyet" (10/5): "In the post-9/11 atmosphere, the Patriotic Act has become a final blow against freedom. The image of the Statue of Liberty has now turned into a police state. President Bush has an authority to limit freedoms that any dictator would envy. The law allows the tracking of financial records, electronic mail, and other communication without a court order. . The Patriotic Act has also expanded the list of crimes punishable by a capital sentence by 15. The US is living in a psychology of fear of terror, where people are encouraged to spy on each other. . The American character and status as a superpower is rooted in the ability to encourage multiple cultures and successfully blend them into a single nation. Unfortunately, the US is on the verge of losing this character. It seems that the 'Big Brother' nightmare of George Orwell is now being played out in America. It will be interesting to see whether the US will return to democracy in the end, or whether it will turn to fascism? The answer to this question requires a study of many factors, including the election results and developments in the Iraq war. In the event of a defeat in Iraq, the American people might start to think about where things went wrong. It may seem ironic, but the resistance in Iraq might bring democracy back to the US, even though the US has failed to bring democracy to Iraq."

"The Cost of Fear"

Haluk Ulman commented in the economic-political "Dunya" (10/5): "During the first Presidential debate, President Bush did not promise any policy change if he is re-elected. Stubbornly, he continued to defend his Iraq policy. Since it has been clearly proven that there were no WMDs in Iraq, Bush can no longer defend his case, but still insists that Saddam was on the verge of building WMDs if the US hadn't removed him from power. Ignoring the situation in Iraq after the occupation and the danger it posed to regional and the world peace, Bush insists that the world became much safer after the removal of Saddam. While all experts agree that the occupation of Iraq helped Al-Qaeda to become more powerful, Bush can't stop talking about how the occupation weakened terrorist organizations in the region. Bush also highlighted the progress made by Iraq and Afghanistan on the road to democracy, even while there are no signs of democracy in either country. The worst thing about the debate was that although Kerry proved with examples that everything Bush said was far removed from reality, Bush still managed to convince a large number of American voters that his policies were correct. Now, for the first time, Kerry is shouting to the American people that 'the emperor has no clothes.' The result of the election will show whether the American people have heard him."

"EU up in arms, Paris in panic"

Mehmet Ali Birand wrote in the mass appeal-sensational "Posta" (10/5): "After Turkey completes a decade of negotiations and reaches an agreement signed by all EU governments, France cannot turn around and reject that agreement in a referendum. Therefore, the most important thing for Turkey is to start negotiations. If the EU Commission's recommendation is clear enough to result in Turkey getting a date to start negotiations, it will be satisfactory. It does not matter if a different method or an additional set of preconditions is attached due to domestic considerations. . If there is to be a new method of negotiations, it will not be applied only on Turkey. It will also be applicable to all countries that begin negotiations after Turkey. . In any case, I believe the report will be very positive."

EDELMAN